

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**Environmental Assessment  
DOI-BLM-NV-L030-2014-0018-EA  
January 2014**

**Recreation Site Improvements**

**Location:  
Mount Irish Archeological/Recreation Site and the Trilobite Site  
Lincoln County, Nevada**

**Applicant:  
Bureau of Land Management**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Caliente Field Office  
Caliente, Nevada  
Phone: (775) 726-8100  
Fax: (775) 726-8111



## **CHAPTER 1: PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

### **1.1 Introduction**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Caliente Field Office (CFO) is proposing to improve the recreational facilities at the Mount Irish Petroglyph Site (Mt Irish) and the Oak Springs Trilobite Site (Oak Springs) located in Lincoln County, Nevada. This Environmental Assessment (EA) is a site-specific analysis of potential impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed action or the no action alternative. The EA balances the need to ensure the continued protection and viability of natural resources while providing viable recreational opportunities as mandated by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). Upon completion of this process in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the BLM may either take no action or improve the recreation sites.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, Section 102 (a) (8) directs the BLM to manage the public lands in a manner that would provide for outdoor recreation. BLM's management actions must also comply with the direction in Section 302(b) to "take any action necessary to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands." As explained in the following paragraphs, the proposed action was developed to meet the BLM's need to comply with the FLPMA mandates.

### **1.2 Background**

Mt Irish is within an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Mt Irish is a unique collection of cultural resources that have drawn visitors to the area for many years. Due to the mild climate, the site remains relatively accessible throughout the year. Sometime between 1970 and 1990 a wooden pit toilet was installed. BLM removed the old pit toilet in February 2014.

In 2002, a visitor register was placed at Paiute Rocks where one of the original wood signs is located. From 2002 to 2006, records from this register indicate that an average of more than 100 people per year visited the site. Between 2005 and 2006, BLM developed a new interpretive program, which resulted in the creation of three semi-formal trails. These trails consist of no more than small steel trail markers in the ground with numbers on them to guide visitors along the trail using an associated trail guide.

The heavily visited Oak Springs Site is a trilobite fossil outcrop exposed at the surface. The parking and trailhead area is located within a relinquished borrow pit, which encompasses two acres. There are three picnic tables, a wooden rail fence approximately 100 feet in length, and a trail leading to the site approximately 1/3 mile down the wash. BLM installed directional signs on Highway 93 directing motorists to the site. Due to the relatively mild climate, the site remains accessible throughout the year.

### **1.3 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action**

The Mt Irish and Oak Springs recreational improvement projects are being proposed to proactively guide visitors to the area, and improve the quality of recreation opportunities to visitors recreating at these two sites.

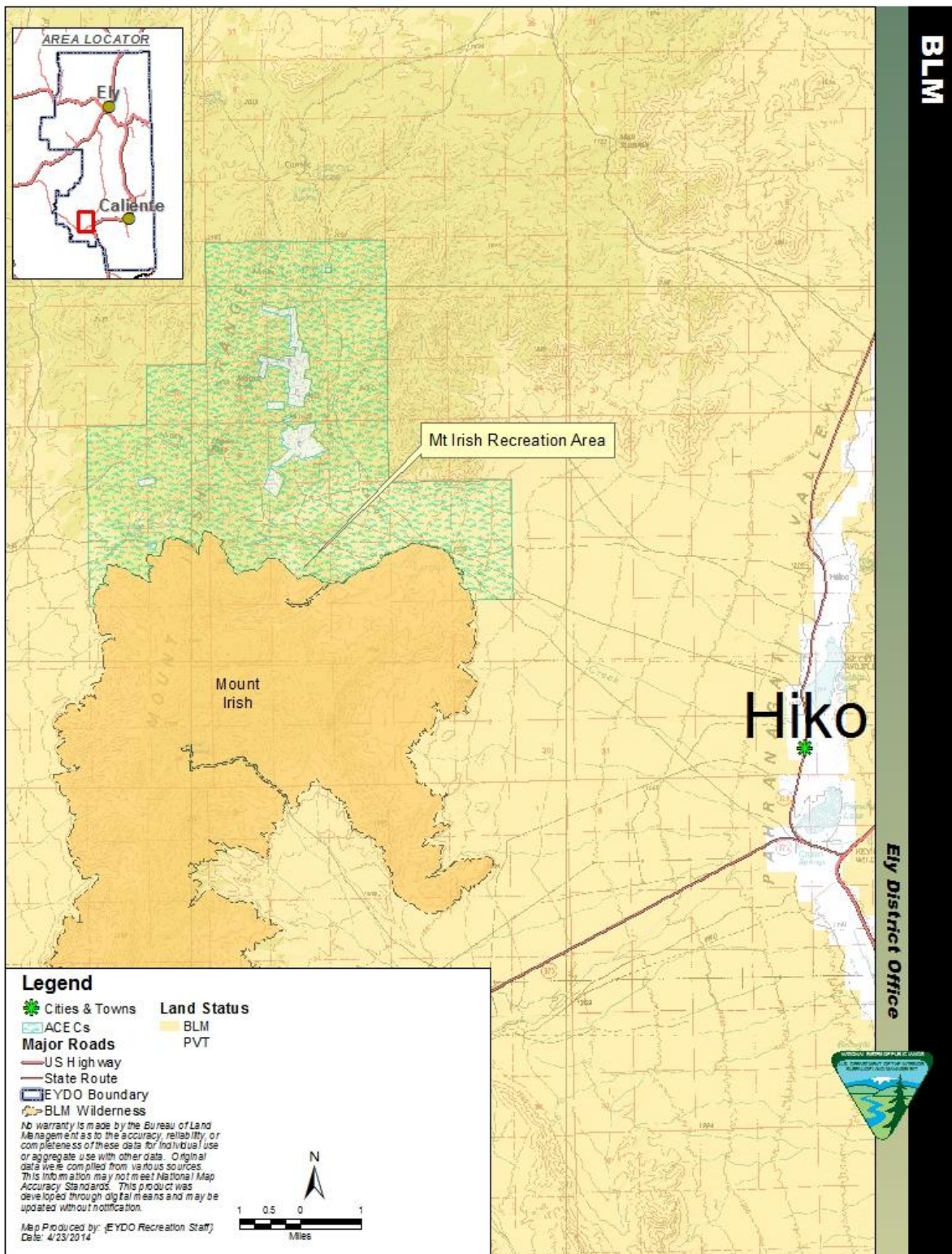
Recreation has increased substantially in the United States on BLM administered public land. With the influx of visitation to public lands into Lincoln County, more and more people are becoming aware of the beauty and uniqueness of Mt Irish and Oak Springs.

### **1.4 Location of Proposed Action**

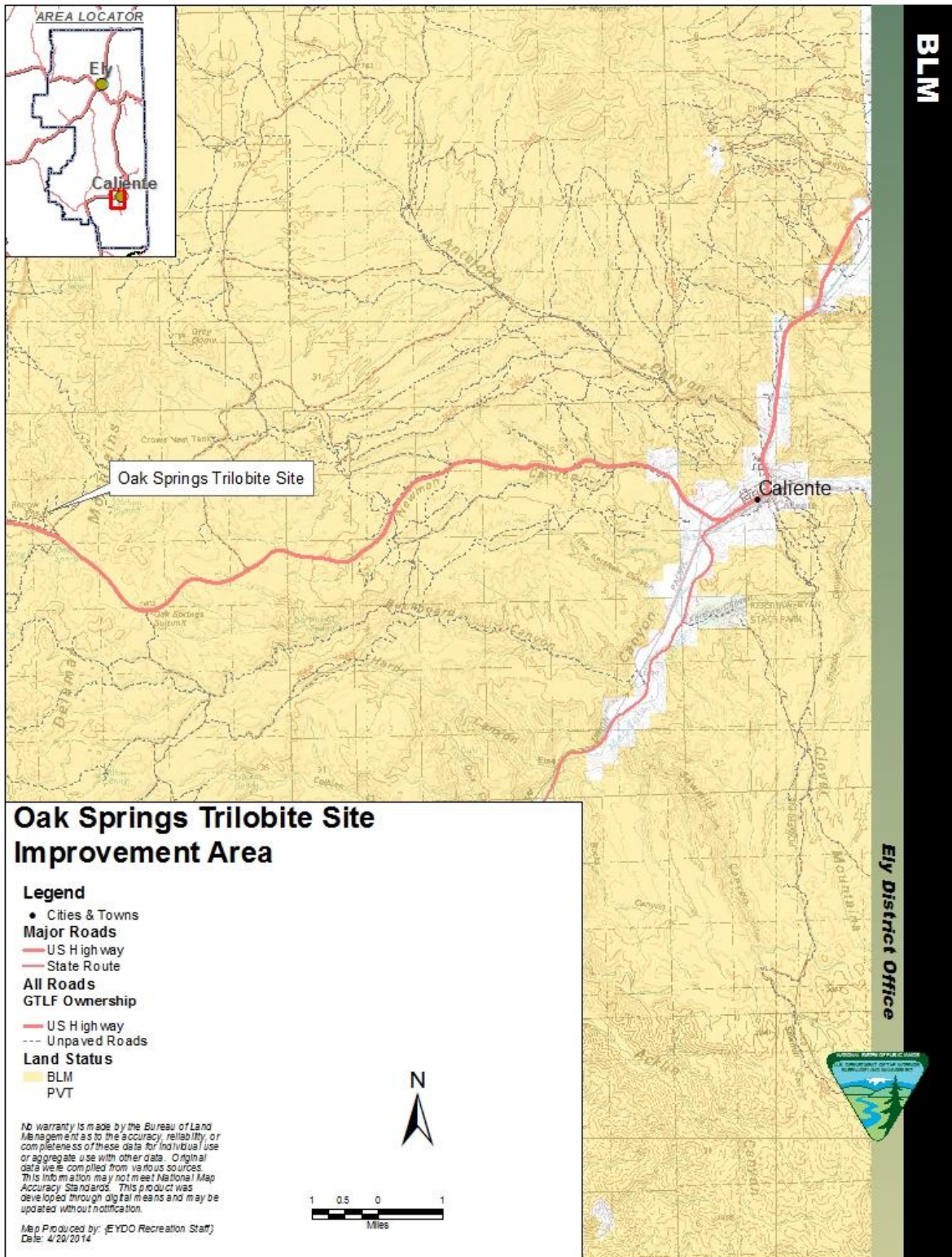
The proposed projects are located on public lands administered by the BLM Ely District, Caliente Field Office.

The Mt Irish is located north of Pahrangat Valley approximately 110 miles north of Las Vegas U.S. Highway 318. The site is approximately eight miles west of Hiko, Nevada. The legal description is Mount Diablo Meridian (21), Township 4 South, Range 59 East, Section 9.

The Oak Springs is located approximately 12 miles west of Caliente. Accessible from U.S. Highway 93. The legal description is Mount Diablo (21) Meridian, Township 4 South, Range 65 East, Section 17.







## **1.5 Conformance with Land Use Plan**

The proposed action is in conformance with the goals and objectives of the Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (Ely RMP, BLM 2008), which follow:

### **Cultural**

#### **Cultural Resources (page 49)**

*Management of cultural resources is directed primarily by two laws: the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979. The National Historic Preservation Act requires management and enhancement of significant historic properties and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act requires protection of archaeological resources (sites and objects of 100 years or more in age). The Federal Land Policy and Management Act direct the BLM to manage public lands on the basis of multiple use and to “protect the quality of historical resources and archaeological values.” This act provides for the periodic inventory of public lands and resources.*

#### **Goals – Cultural Resources (page 49-50)**

*Identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations (Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Section 103(c), 201(a), and (c); National Historic Preservation Act, Section 110(a); Archaeological Resources Protection Act, Section 14 [a]).*

*Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses (Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Section 103(c), National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106, 110[a][2]) by ensuring that all authorizations for land use and resource use would comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106.*

#### **Objectives – Cultural Resources (page 50)**

*To protect and maintain cultural resources on BLM-administered land in stable condition. Appropriate management actions would be determined after evaluation and allocation of cultural resource use categories through cultural resource project plans.*

#### **Management Actions – Cultural Resources (page 50)**

#### **General Cultural Resources Management**

**CR-2:** *Allocate all cultural resources in the planning area, whether already recorded or projected to occur on the basis of existing data synthesis (including cultural landscapes), or not projected to occur but later identified through inventory, to the following six uses according to their nature and relative preservation value: Scientific Use, Conservation for Future Use, Traditional Use, Public Use, Experimental Use, and Discharged from Management. See the Cultural category in the glossary for definitions. These use allocations pertain to cultural*

*resources, not to areas of land. Each resource would be assigned to a primary use category, but that assignment does not preclude management from other use categories. Allocate and manage all sites determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places to Scientific, Public, and Conservation for Future Use.*

***Parameter – Cultural Resource Use Allocation: Rock Art Sites***

***Management:***

*Limit livestock and human contact with rock art panels through physical barriers (fences or natural barriers such as plantings or boulder placement).*

***Public Use:***

*Post informational signs on rock site etiquette and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 at all Public Use sites.*

*Consider installing at least one interpretative trail/footpath at each rock art site allocated to Public Use.*

*Allocate and manage all National Register eligible rock art sites for Scientific, Conservation, and/or Public*

*Use, and continue to develop interpretative sites with priority placed on maintaining and improving existing interpretative facilities.*

***Recreation***

***Goals – Recreation*** (page 79)

*Provide quality settings for developed and undeveloped recreation experiences and opportunities while protecting resources.*

***Objectives – Recreation*** (page 79)

*To provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities to satisfy a growing demand by a public seeking the open, undeveloped spaces that is characteristic of the planning area.*

*To provide visitor information to familiarize people with recreational opportunities throughout the planning area and encourage minimum impact or “Leave No Trace” and “Tread Lightly” recreational skills and ethics for recreational activities.*

***Management Actions – Recreation*** (page 79-81)

***Parameter – Special Recreation Management Areas***

***REC-3:*** *Develop recreation sites, as appropriate, to proactively manage for tourism and recreation experiences.*

***REC-6:*** *Manage for recreation facilities and services such as trails, trailheads, staging areas, and associated structures in extensive recreation management areas following activity-level*

*plans and NEPA analysis for the management of designated wilderness, ACECs, the Silver State Off-highway Vehicle Trail, backcountry byways, and where appropriate, for management of recreational impacts to natural and cultural resources.*

**REC-9:** *Continue to provide visitor orientation information, interpretive activities, signage, safety programs, and other visitor outreach activities. Familiarize the public with recreational opportunities throughout the planning area and encourage minimum impact or “Leave No Trace” behavior for recreational activities.*

### **Paleontological**

#### ***Paleontological Resources*** (page 62)

*The BLM has authority to manage and protect paleontological resources under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and various sections of Part 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations.*

#### ***Goals – Paleontological Resources*** (page 62)

*Identify and manage at-risk paleontological resources (scientific value); preserve and protect vertebrate fossils through best science methods; and promote public and scientific use of invertebrate and paleobotanical fossils.*

#### ***Objectives – Paleontological Resources*** (page 63)

*To manage fossil sites with high scientific value in a stable condition, while allowing appropriate research and casual public collecting.*

#### ***Management Actions – Paleontological Resources*** (page 63)

#### ***General Paleontological Resource Management***

**PAL-2:** *Allocate and manage all invertebrate and paleobotanical sites for Public and/or Scientific Use.*

#### ***Parameter – Trilobite Collecting***

**PAL-4:** *Establish a no-fee-based registration system.*

## **CHAPTER 2: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

### **2.1 Proposed Action**

Under the proposed action, BLM would install at Mt Irish an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved vault toilet within the already disturbed parking area (Paiute Rock.) In addition,



a wooden rail fence would be placed around the parking area (Paiute Rock.) A kiosk would be placed at Paiute Rock parking area with public education (trail maps and signs, resource information, rules, and ethics signs). The existing interpretive trails would be improved to provide a clear trail and allow visitors to easily follow the routes identified in the existing interpretive materials. Vehicle barrier bollards would also be installed in strategic spots where vehicles have made their way into rock art areas (Shaman Knob.)

BLM would install at Oak Springs an EPA approved vault toilet within the already disturbed parking area. Tables and shade structures would be placed within the pre-disturbed area. A kiosk would be placed within the pre-disturbed area with public education (trail maps and signs, resource information, rules, and ethics signs). These actions would focus on existing use and promote increased use in appropriate areas for recreation.

## 2.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative means the Mt Irish Petroglyph Site and Oak Springs Trilobite Recreation Site would not be improved. Visitors would continue to enter the sensitive area and degradation to sensitive rock art would likely occur. Under this alternative, the purpose and need for the proposal would not be met. This alternative does not comply with the Ely RMP or Federal laws and regulations.

## CHAPTER 3: AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND IMPACT ANALYSIS

### 3.1 Introduction

An interdisciplinary team considered and analyzed the proposed action by resource and the affected environment. Table 1 summarizes this analysis and indicates which resources of concern are present/not present in the project area and which resources are analyzed in greater detail in the EA.

**Table 1.** Summary of resources/concerns dismissed with rationale and those carried forward for further analysis.

Resource/Concern	Issue(s) Analyzed? (Yes/No)	Rationale for Determination
<b>Air Resources</b>		
Air Quality*	N	The nature of the proposed action and the location are within pre-disturbed areas. It is anticipated to have a negligible impact to air quality.
<b>Water Resources</b>		
Water Quality, Drinking/Ground*	N	The site improvements would have no effect or a beneficial effect on water quality due to the nature of the action.
Water Resources (Water Rights)	N	The site improvements would have no effect or a beneficial effect on water resources due to the nature of the action.

<b>Soil Resources</b>		
Farmlands, Prime and Unique*	N	The resource is not present in the project area.
<b>Vegetation Resources</b>		
Forest Health*	N	The resource is not present in the project area.
Rangeland Standards and Guidelines*	N	This is not a grazing action; the recreation trailhead sites are already disturbed. The resource would not be affected.
Wetlands/Riparian Zones*		The site improvements would have no effect or a beneficial effect due to the temporary surface disturbing nature of the action.
<b>Fish and Wildlife</b>		
Fish and Non-avian Wildlife	N	No fish or aquatic species occur within or near the project. The project area is within previously disturbed areas. No population-level effects are anticipated. See Appendix A for a list of potential wildlife species in the project area.
Migratory Birds*	N	<p>There is always a possibility that the nests, and/or developing offspring of birds could be disturbed by the activity. However, the potential for this impact has been reduced by timing any new ground disturbance activity outside of the nesting season.</p> <p>In view of the aforementioned, it is anticipated that negative impacts to migratory bird populations, as a whole, would be negligible.</p>
<b>Special Status Species</b>		
FWS Listed Species or critical habitat. Also, ACEC designated to protect listed species habitat.*	N	The resource is not present in the project area.
Sensitive Animal Species	Y	See below for detailed analysis.
Sensitive Plant Species, Also, ACECs designated to protect sensitive plant species.	Y	See below for detailed analysis.
<b>Wild Horses</b>		
Wild Horses	N	The resource is not present in the project area.
<b>Cultural Resources</b>		
Cultural Resources*	Y	Mt. Irish: replace structure in new location. Indirect effect. Areas of construction further removed from view shed than previously existing. Structure will be installed in a previously disturbed area. Trail

		maintenance will allow petroglyph viewing at an appropriate and benign distance. There are no known cultural resources near the Trilobite Site construction area.
ACEC's designated for Cultural Resources*	Y	The Mt. Irish site is within a cultural ACEC. Areas of construction have been previously disturbed.
Heritage Special Designations (Historic Trails, Archaeological Districts and Areas)	Y	The Mt. Irish site is within an Archaeological District. Areas of construction have been previously disturbed.
<b>Paleontological Resources</b>		
Paleontological Resources	Y	The development at the Oak Springs facility will not impact the fossil beds and there are no known fossil localities near the Mount Irish location.
<b>Visual Resources</b>		
Visual Resources	Y	The proposed action (Mt. Irish) is located within the area that has been assigned a Visual Resource Management (VRM) classification of a 2, (the objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape). The proposed action would stay within the visual resource management criteria for the area based upon mitigation measures to previously disturbed areas. However no new impacts are anticipated. The proposed action (Trilobite) is located within the area that has been assigned a VRM classification of a 3, (The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape). The proposed action would stay within the visual resource management criteria for the area based upon mitigation measures to previously disturbed areas.
<b>Lands and Realty/Renewable Energy</b>		
Land Uses	N	
<b>Travel Management</b>		
Transportation/Access	N	Does not affect
<b>Recreation</b>		
Recreation Uses including Back country Byways, Caves, Rock hounding Areas	Y	The proposed action would have a beneficial effect. See below for detailed analysis.
<b>Livestock Grazing</b>		
Grazing Uses/Forage	N	Not affected.
<b>Forest/Woodland Products</b>		
Forest/Woodland and other vegetative	N	No forests/woodlands are present. The recreation site improvements would have no effect or a beneficial

products (Native seeds, yucca and cactus plants)		effect on vegetative products because the projects are within pre-disturbed areas.
<b>Geology and Mineral Extraction</b>		
Mineral Resources	N	Not affected.
<b>Watershed</b>		
Soils/Watershed	N	The recreation site improvements would have no effect or a beneficial effect because the projects are within pre-disturbed areas.
Floodplains*		Not present
<b>Fire</b>		
Fuels	N	The resource would not be affected due to projects are within pre-disturbed areas
<b>Noxious and Invasive Weeds</b>		
Non-Native Invasive and Noxious Species *	N	Mitigation identified in the proposed action combined with minimal levels of ground disturbance activities would result in negligible impacts to invasive, non-native species.
<b>Special Designations</b>		
Wilderness/ WSA*	N	No Wilderness or Wilderness Study areas are present.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	N	Not present
<b>Other Concerns</b>		
Human Health and Safety*	N	BLM removed the outdated pit toilet (February 2014). The Proposed Action is to provide pit toilets. Because of these amenities, Trail users would be less likely to disperse trash and waste around the Trail region than they would be under the No Action alternative, which provides no such amenities.
Native American Religious and other Concerns*	Y	BLM consulted with the Tribes and conducted a field visit with Duckwater Shoshone Tribe. No concerns or alternatives were identified as a result of this consultation or field trip.
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid*	N	The proposed action will not generate any hazardous wastes. The Proposed Action provides for vault toilets to be installed at the sites, which are locations where use would be most focused. Because of these amenities, Trail users would be less likely to disperse

		trash and waste around the Trail region than they would be under the No Action alternative, which provides no such amenities.
Public Safety	N	The visitors to these sites would be safer with the proposed new toilets. More human waste would be captured in the toilets with the proposed action than the no action.
Environmental Justice*	N	No minority or low-income groups would be disproportionately affected by health or environmental effects.
Other		
*Indicates mandatory element for analysis.		

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) are designated by the BLM.

### 3.2 General Setting

The areas contain primarily pinion /juniper woodland communities, Inter-Mountain Basin big sagebrush, Great Basin xeric, mixed sagebrush and occur approximately 6,020 feet to 6,100 feet in elevation. The areas are primarily used by recreationists for trail hiking, camping, rock art viewing, fossil collecting, sight-seeing.

### 3.3 Proposed Action

#### 3.3.1 Special Status Plants and Animals.

##### *Affected Environment*

Appendix A contains a list of wildlife and special status plant species with potential to occur within the project. The Oak Springs and Mt. Irish project areas potentially contain the following BLM sensitive animal species: golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), and desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*). The Mt. Irish site also potentially contains the BLM sensitive plant species sheep fleabane (*Erigeron ovinus*).

##### *Environmental Consequences*

Golden eagle nest in areas higher than would be potentially impacted by the proposed actions. Brewer's sparrows typically nest in shrubs or low trees (Ehrlich et al. 1988) so there could potentially be impacts to this species. However, the minimization measures in the Proposed Action should minimize or avoid impacts to these two bird species.

Desert bighorn sheep could avoid and/or be displaced from the project area during construction and during use by humans for recreation. These effects are expected to generally be temporary in nature and not have population-level impacts.



As required in the Proposed Action, special status plant surveys will be undertaken prior to any new ground-disturbing activity. Any plants discovered during this survey would be avoided. Therefore, no effects are anticipated to Special status plants.

No population-level effects are anticipated from the Proposed Action with BLM sensitive species.

### **No Action Alternative**

The aforementioned effects would not occur under the No Action Alternative. However, impacts from more dispersed use at these two sites could be greater on sensitive species than by directing people to designated use areas.

### **3.3.1 Recreation**

#### ***Affected Environment***

Current recreational uses in the project areas include hunting, trapping, OHV use, OHV races, heritage tourism, camping, hiking, bouldering and wildlife viewing.

Roads associated with the Proposed Action have traditionally been used for recreational purposes by hunters, trappers and some OHV enthusiasts. While most recreational OHV use in the project area is associated with hunting and trapping, yearly OHV races are held on roads associated with the Proposed Action in the Oak Springs area.

#### ***Environmental Consequences***

Increased ease of OHV access and amenities for recreation proffered by the Proposed Action would cause increased use along the Trail, proposed routes and proposed trailheads. Focused versus dispersed use, user-created trails and social trails would all have a variety of impacts, both positive and negative, on multiple natural and cultural resources.

### **No Action Alternative**

The No Action alternative would encourage trail users to disperse around the trailheads and camp in existing primitive campsites or create their own new campsites. Small amounts of human waste and trash may be polluting the area.

## **CHAPTER 4: CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

Cumulative impacts result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts could result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions, taking place over a period of time (Council on Environmental Quality, Regulations for Implementation of NEPA, 1508.7).

According to the BLM publication, Guidelines for Accessing and Documenting Cumulative Impacts (1994), the analysis can be focused on those issues and resource values identified during scoping that are of major importance. No major issues were identified during scoping, therefore no cumulative impacts are anticipated and a more detailed analysis is not warranted.

## CHAPTER 5: PERSONS, GROUPS AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

The Ely District Office Tribal Coordinator, Elvis Wall, send a letter on May 2, 2014 to the tribes that have expressed interest in the project area as a means of Tribal coordination. Additionally, setup a field visit with the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe. No concerns or alternatives were identified as a result of this letter or field trip.

### List of Preparers.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Resource Represented</b>
Elizabeth Domina	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Travel Management, Visual Resources
Travis Young	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Air Quality, Environmental Justice, NEPA
Cameron Boyce	Rangeland Management Specialist	Rangelands Standards and Guidelines, Livestock Grazing Riparian/Wetlands
Clint Wertz	Assistant Field Manager	Water Resources, Soil Resources, Watershed
Alicia Styles	Wildlife Biologist	Fish and Wildlife, Special Status Species
Todd Trapp	Wildlife Biologist	Fish and Wildlife, Special Status Species
Benjamin Noyes	Wild Horse Specialist	Wild Horses
Nicholas Pay	Archaeologist, Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources
Harry Konwin	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources
Tyrone Chamberlain	Realty Specialist	Lands/Energy
Miles Kreidler	Geologist	Mineral Resources
Kyle Teel	Fire Ecologist	Fuels
Erica Husse	Rehabilitation Manager	Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation
Cameron Boyce	Natural Resource Specialist	Noxious and Invasive Species

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Resource Represented</b>
Emily Simpson	Wilderness Planner Environmental Protection Specialist	Wilderness Wastes, Hazardous and Solid, Human Health and Safety
Elvis Wall	Native American Coordinator	Native American Concerns
Shirley Johnson	Assistant Field Manager	Editor
Russell Jensen	Environmental Protection	Wastes, Hazardous and Solid, Human Health and Safety

### **Works Cited**

Floyd T, Elphick CS, Chisholm G, Mack K, Elston RG, Ammon EM, and Boone JD. 2007. Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada. Reno: University of Nevada Press.

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USDOI. 2008. Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. BLM/NV/EL/PL-GI08/25+1793.

*The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918* [MBTA], as implemented by the Ely District Policy Management Actions for the Conservation of Migratory Birds in accordance with Executive Order (EO) 13186. This policy states that there is a “‘no activity’ period for all management actions in migratory bird habitat” from May 1 to July 15 “unless a survey is done to determine no migratory bird breeding or nesting is occurring in the area”

## **Attachment A**

### **Wildlife and Plants for Mt. Irish and Oak Springs Trilobite Recreation Sites (5/28/14)**

Highlighted species are BLM Sensitive Species in Nevada.

#### ***Oak Springs Trilobite Site***

From Ely RMP, NDOW Diversity, and NV Natural Heritage Data:

Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*): crucial summer & general habitat

Great Basin pocket mouse (*Perognathus parvus*)

North American deermouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*)

Merriam's kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami*)

Pinon deermouse (*Peromyscus truei*)

Western harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys megalotis*)

Least chipmunk (*Neotamias minimus*)

The project would be in NV Hunt Unit 223. Depending on time of year, there could be hunting in the area.

The following data reflect survey blocks and/or incidental sightings of bird species within the project boundaries from the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada (Floyd et al. 2007) and NDOW Diversity data. These data represent birds that were confirmed, probably, or possibly breeding within vegetation similar to the project area. These data are not comprehensive, and additional species not listed here may be present within the project area.

Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*)

American robin (*Turdus migratorius*)  
 Ash-throated flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)  
 Yellow-rumped warbler (*Dendroica coronate*)  
 Black-chinned sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis*)  
 Blue-gray gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*)  
 Brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)  
 Black-headed grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*)  
 Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*)  
 Black-tailed gnatcatcher (*Polioptila melanura*)  
 Black-throated gray warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*)  
 Black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*)  
 Bushtit (*Psaltiriparus minimus*)  
 Canyon wren (*Catherpes mexicanus*)  
 Chipping sparrow (*Spizella passerine*)  
 Common poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*)  
 Common raven (*Corvus corax*)  
 Gray-headed junco (*Junco hyemalis caniceps*)  
 Gray flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*)  
 Gray vireo (*Vireo vicinior*)  
 Hairy woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*)  
 House finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*)  
 House wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)  
 Juniper titmouse (*Baeolophus ridgwayi*)  
 Lark sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)  
 Mountain chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*)  
 Northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*)  
 Rock wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)  
 Spotted towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*)  
 Turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*)  
 Warbling vireo (*Vireo gilvus*)  
 Western bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*)  
 Western kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)  
 Western scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma californica*)  
 Wilson's warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*)

### ***Mt. Irish Recreation Site***

From Ely RMP, NDOW Diversity, and NV Natural Heritage Data:

Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) general habitat

Desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) occupied habitat

Sheep fleabane (*Erigeron ovinus*)

The project would be in NV Hunt Unit 133. Depending on time of year, there could be hunting in the area.

The following data reflect survey blocks and/or incidental sightings of bird species within the project boundaries from the Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada (Floyd et al. 2007) and



NDOW Diversity data. These data represent birds that were confirmed, probably, or possibly breeding within vegetation similar to the project area. These data are not comprehensive, and additional species not listed here may be present within the project area. No survey blocks occur within the project area.

Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*)

Black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*)

Cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)

Common raven (*Corvus corax*)

Horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*)

Northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)

Sage sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*)

### **Works Cited**

Floyd T, Elphick CS, Chisholm G, Mack K, Elston RG, Ammon EM, and Boone JD. 2007. Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Nevada. Reno: University of Nevada Press.